

consideration the bill, (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes,

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Collins/Linder amendment. This amendment would prohibit EPA from using any funds in the bill to designate "ozone non-attainment areas" under the more stringent National Ambient Air Quality Standards issued by EPA in 1997 which were ruled unconstitutional by the D.C. Superior Court. The amendment will simply postpone the designation of new non-attainment areas using the 1997 standards, until the Supreme Court decides once and for all if the standards are legally enforceable. If we fail to pass this important amendment a similar problem that we are facing in Michigan could occur in other states.

And now I would like to highlight how we in Michigan are grappling with this similar problem. The proposal by the EPA to reinstate the 1-hour ozone standard—after the 8-hour rule was declared unconstitutional—based on monitoring data collected in 1997 is flawed. Using that data counties such as Saginaw, Allegan, Genesee, Bay and Midland would be designated nonattainment areas even though all of these counties are currently measuring acceptable attainment levels.

Let me say that there isn't a person or organization in this room who doesn't want clean air, clean water, and a safe environmental legacy to leave to our children and grandchildren.

As a legislator, I have consistently worked toward achieving a cleaner environment, and as a nation we have made great gains in the past two decades to clean polluted rivers, to ensure that toxic emissions are reduced, and expedite the clean-up of hazardous waste sites across the country.

The Environmental Protection Agency has played a major role in spearheading these efforts and we should fully recognize the important role they play in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

Their mission, "to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment" is one of the most important that is carried out by any federal agency.

Unfortunately, the proposed rule EPA has under discussion—is of the type that unnecessarily causes friction between the business community and environmental groups. It causes friction where none should exist. And just as damaging—I think the ruling undermines the credibility of the EPA.

For me, this fails the litmus test of common sense and is therefore unreasonable. If an area is clean now, then they should be treated accordingly.

The whole idea behind any enforcement mechanism is to ensure compliance. If compliance is met then there shouldn't be a problem—the EPA ruling is putting the cart before the horse—and it is placing bureaucratic gymnastics above the economic and environmental well being of our community.

Keeping the Attainment status is important for the viability of our local economy. A non-attainment status will have far reaching negative effects for our economic base, including putting into jeopardy \$24 million in much

needed transportation projects, making our area unattractive to new business and stifle economic development.

And for what—to penalize a community because their air is well within compliance in the first place?

The EPA needs to meet us halfway so that the problem can be resolved. It is that simple.

#### ABRAHAM LINCOLN INTERPRETATIVE CENTER

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 19, 2000*

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3084 which authorizes funds for the establishment of a new interpretative center in Springfield, IL honoring President Abraham Lincoln. As we celebrate the life and contributions of this great man, I would like to point out that no commemoration is complete without mentioning southern Indiana's part in the Abraham Lincoln story.

Many people do not realize President Lincoln spent 14 years of his life on a small farm in Lincoln City, Indiana. It was at his boyhood home in southern Indiana where he helped his father work the land, cultivated his love of reading, and developed a curious and inquisitive nature. Sadly, he also lost his mother there, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, when he was just nine years old. The time he spent in Indiana during his formative years undoubtedly contributed to the development of President Lincoln's extraordinary character—from an honest, hardworking boy to one of our country's finest leaders.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Indiana are proud of this heritage. I encourage all Americans wishing to learn more about this American hero to visit Lincoln City, Indiana and the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial located just off the Lincoln Heritage Trail.

#### TRIBUTE TO LINDSEY ROBERTS, JR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you and recognize the accomplishments and success of one of Mississippi's finest civil servants. For many years, Lindsey Roberts, Jr., has worked diligently to ensure the continued growth and development of Mississippi for future generations.

Since 1988, Roberts has served the people of Montgomery County as a member and past president of the Board of Supervisors. During the past year, Roberts has been instrumental in bringing more than \$2.5 million in grant funds to Montgomery County for road and other infrastructure improvements.

Roberts has brought a tremendous amount of recognition to Montgomery County through

his election as president of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) Minority Caucus and as the recipient of the 1999 MAS Presidential Award.

In addition, for his outstanding efforts to obtain grant funding for Montgomery County and the recognition he has brought to the community through his involvement on the state and national levels, he was presented with the Government Award for the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, Lindsey Roberts, Jr., should be an inspiration to us all. His tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed by the people of Montgomery County. He is sure to be a positive force within the state of Mississippi for many years to come.

#### HONORING THE CITY OF CEDARTOWN

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the City of Cedartown, Georgia, for hosting the Cedartown Pre-Peachtree Training Camp for some of the world's greatest wheelchair athletes during the week of Monday, June 26th through Saturday, July 1st.

Cedartown, located in Polk County is in the heart of the 7th Congressional District, and is a beautiful, rural and historic community west of Atlanta.

Building on the success as a host community during the 1996 Summer Olympics, Cedartown is now hosting more than 20 world-class wheelchair athletes from around the world, including the United States, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Thailand, Australia, Mexico, Switzerland, and South Africa, for a week of training and special events in preparation for the Peachtree Road Race on July 4th.

The Peachtree Road Race is held in Atlanta every Fourth of July, and is the world's largest 10K race, with more than 50,000 participants. The race includes a wheelchair event.

More than 75 Cedartown volunteers are providing accommodations, transportation, and food for the athletes during the week. I am proud to represent Cedartown and its citizens as they continue to make their mark on the world.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MIGRANT HEAD START CENTER WORKERS

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, migrant farm workers often come to the United States under severe circumstances and hardship, looking for work in this great country. Unfortunately, services and programs for migrant workers are often unavailable. I rise to pay tribute to three people who devoted their lives to helping migrant farm workers become self-sufficient in their new lives here in America. And on Sunday, June 25, 2000, Francisca Huizar, Aida